

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claim 4 contains allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, new independent claim 7 is added to recite the allowable subject matter recited in claim 4. Claims 1 and 6 are amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Fig. 3A and paragraph [0039]. Claim 3 is amended for better clarity.

Reconsideration of the application in light of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Chang for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Luo, during the August 31, 2005 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,900,787 to Yoshimura in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,896,069 to Williams et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,039,985 to Delhaye et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action acknowledges that Yoshimura does not disclose or suggest a clamping circuit, but asserts that Williams discloses a clamping circuit. However, Yoshimura and Williams, even if combined, do not disclose or suggest a clamping circuit having a first electrode and a second electrode, the first electrode connected to a node disposed between an output terminal of a transmission gate and an input terminal of an inverter, the second electrode directly connected to a ground voltage potential, as recited in claims 1 and 6.

As discussed during the personal interview, Williams merely discloses a clamping circuit. Williams does not disclose or suggest a clamping circuit to be connected with a transmission gate. Therefore, Williams does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 6.

As further discussed in the personal interview, Williams does not disclose or suggest a motivation to connect Williams' clamping circuit with Yoshimura's transmission gate. A combination of Williams' clamping circuit with Yoshimura's transmission gate would be an impermissible hindsight reconstruction by using the present application as a road map to pick and choose features out of the prior art. Thus, Williams does not supply the subject matter lacking in Yoshimura.

For at least the above reason, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Williams clamping circuit with Yoshimura's transmission gate, and Yoshimura and Williams, even if combined, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 6, and claims 2, 3 and 5 depending therefrom.

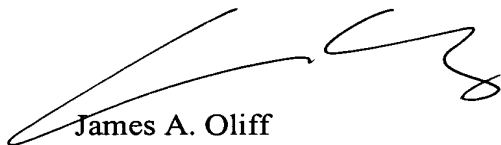
Furthermore, Delhayé does not disclose a clamping circuit having a first electrode and a second electrode, the first electrode connected to a node disposed between an output terminal of a transmission gate and an input terminal of an inverter, the second electrode directly connected to a ground voltage potential, as recited in claims 1 and 6. Thus, Delhayé does not supply the subject matter lacking in Yoshimura and Williams.

For at least the above reasons, Yoshimura, Williams and Delhayé do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 6, and claims 2, 3 and 5 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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